

To: R1NewsClips[R1NewsClips@epa.gov]
From: Elliott, Rodney
Sent: Sun 8/16/2015 1:08:38 PM
Subject: Daily NEWSCLIPS, Sunday, August 15 & 16th, 2015 r1newsclips

Report Overview:

Total Clips (63)

Air (17)

Brownfields / Superfund / Other Cleanups (6)

Budget/Recovery Act (1)

Climate Change (15)

Energy Issues (2)

Pesticides (1)

Research and Development (1)

Toxics (2)

Water (9)

Other (9)

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Air (17)			
Critics of carbon regulations using mine spill to skewer EPA	08/15/2015	Advocate Online, The	CT
Column: EPA's blunder proves the necessity of its services	08/15/2015	Worcester Telegram and Gazette Online, The	MA
Seabrook Station's 10-mile evacuation zone draws scrutiny	08/15/2015	Worcester's Daily Democrat Online	NH
Hassan urges feds to seek alternative pipeline route	08/15/2015	New Hampshire Union Leader Online	NH
Critics of carbon regulations using mine spill to skewer EPA	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
Smoke prompts air quality alert for southwest Montana	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
Coal company, Montana tribe sign onto Washington coal port	08/14/2015	Associated Press Online	NY
'China air pollution kills 4,400 a day'	08/14/2015	Boston.com	MA
RESIDENTS SEEK CHANGES ENERGY	08/14/2015	Green Mountain Daily Free Press	VT

SITING RULES

Revision Energy wins innovation award	08/14/2015	Record, The Dorchester's Daily Democrat Online	NH
DEEP: Unhealthy air quality projected for Middlesex County on Monday, Aug. 17	08/14/2015	Middletown Press - CT Online	CT
Coal Company, Montana Tribe Sign Onto Washington Coal Port	08/14/2015	New York Times Online, The	NY
Kevin J. Corey: Some questions regarding Clean River Energy Center	08/14/2015	Evidence Journal Online, The	RI
RI issues alert for unhealthy air quality starting Saturday	08/14/2015	Evidence Journal Online, The	RI
Gov. Charlie Baker helps BCC flip the switch on solar canopy	08/14/2015	SouthCoastToday.com	MA
From toxic waste dump, solar energy at Tyngsboro landfill	08/14/2015	Online	MA
How Alaska's quest to power remote villages could help spread renewable energy worldwide	08/14/2015	Washington Post Online	DC

Brownfields / Superfund / Other Cleanups (6)

Colorado spill a blip in legacy of leaking abandoned mines	08/14/2015	Associated Press Online	NY
Clean up your act, Belmont	08/14/2015	Boston Globe, The	MA
Colorado river spill: Fixing the 1872 law that haunts thousands of old mines	08/14/2015	Christian Science Monitor, The	MA
Kayakers collect boatloads of trash from Great Bay	08/14/2015	Dorchester's Daily Democrat Online	NH
EPA Chief: 'Holding Ourselves To A Higher Standard'	08/14/2015	NPR/National Public Radio	DC
Mine Cleanups' Uphill Fight	08/14/2015	Wall Street Journal Online	NY

Budget/Recovery Act (1)

Minot receives \$6M from FEMA to help protect treatment plant	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
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Climate Change (15)

Protesters storm open-pit coal mine in western Germany	08/15/2015	Advocate Online, The	CT
Rhode Island researchers study link	08/14/2015	Advocate Online,	CT

between heat and health	The	
Protesters storm open-pit coal mine in western Germany	08/14/2015 Associated Press	NY
EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills	08/14/2015 Associated Press Online	NY
R.I. study to look at rising heat, health	08/14/2015 Boston Globe, The	MA
EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills	08/14/2015 Boston Herald Online	MA
EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills	08/14/2015 Boston.com	MA
Protecting the polar bears	08/14/2015 Chronicle, The	CT
Letter: Straight talk on climate	08/14/2015 Concord Monitor Online	NH
Rhode Island researchers study link between heat and health	08/14/2015 Wester's Daily Democrat Online	NH
EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills	08/14/2015 Greenwich Time Online	CT
EPA Tightens Rules for Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Landfills	08/14/2015 New York Times Online, The	NY
Soil fest contributes to talk about global climate change	08/14/2015 Albans Messenger	VT
Young People Sue US Over Climate Change	08/14/2015 WELI-AM Online	CT
R.I. researchers engaged in heat-and-health study	08/14/2015 Westerly Sun, The	RI
Energy Issues (2)		
Massachusetts energy delegation heading to Switzerland	08/15/2015 Advocate Online, The	CT
Algae bloom forces closure of Lake Pocotopaug beaches in East Hampton	08/14/2015 Middletown Press, The	CT
Pesticides (1)		
West Nile Confirmed In Mosquitoes Collected In...	08/14/2015 Berkshires.com	MA
Research and Development (1)		
NH communities debate aging infrastructure	08/15/2015 New Hampshire Union Leader Online	NH
Toxics (2)		

Md. housing chief suggests deliberate lead poisoning	Advocate Online,	
Official: Housing chief's lead paint remarks "ridiculous."	The	
	08/14/2015 Associated Press	NY

Water (9)

Duckweed arrives earlier than usual in Dover	08/15/2015	Star's Daily Democrat Online	NH
Drought impact growing across the Seacoast	08/15/2015	Star's Daily Democrat Online	NH
Toxic algae plagues beaches at Iowa's state parks	08/15/2015	USA Today Online	VA
Sides agree on lawyer fees in Arkansas hog farm case	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
River in Colorado reopens as toxic plume reaches Lake Powell	08/14/2015	Associated Press Online	NY
The Latest: EPA says no risk from Colorado river sediments	08/14/2015	Associated Press Online	NY
Coalition for Water Resources	08/14/2015	Hford Daily News, The	MA
EPA puts teeth in efforts	08/14/2015	Albans Messenger	VT
LAKE CHAMPLAIN: EPA limits put pressure on farms, sewage facility	08/14/2015	Albans Messenger - Online	VT

Other (9)

Burials at sea grow in popularity	08/15/2015	Star's Daily Democrat Online	NH
New Hampshire Rare Bird Alert New Hampshire	08/15/2015	New Hampshire Union Leader Online	NH
State clears San Juan River for irrigation, recreation	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
Series of explosions rocks Texas oil field chemical supplier	08/14/2015	Associated Press	NY
EPA Wins Bid For Stay Of Court's Ruling On Generator Air Rule Exemption	08/14/2015	side EPA	VA
EPA's Critics Might Wait Until 2017 To Advance Regulatory Reform Package	08/14/2015	side EPA	VA
EPA's blunder proves the necessity of its services	08/14/2015	ene Sentinel Online	NH

5 Toxic Stocks to Stay Away From This Summer

Litchfield County Times - Online, The

EPA is seeking Public Comment on Phosphorus Limits for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain.
<http://t.co/6adwsGgsR5>

08/14/2015

CA

News Headline: Critics of carbon regulations using mine spill to skewer EPA | ..

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...from an abandoned Colorado gold mine are starting to recover, but for the Environmental Protection Agency the political...

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News Headline: Column: EPA's blunder proves the necessity of its services | ..

Outlet Full Name: Eagle-Tribune Online, The

News Text: ...photo) (Newscom TagID: shnsphotos006741) [Photo via Newscom]
Column: EPA's blunder proves the necessity of its services Ann McFeatters...

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News Headline: Seabrook Station's 10-mile evacuation zone draws scrutiny | ..

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...she said. "They would not and do not have requirements to have an emergency response in place in the event of a radiological...

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News Headline: Hassan urges feds to seek alternative pipeline route | ..

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...pipeline company to respond to a series of questions related to water and air quality, noise, safety issues and how the company will...

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News Headline: Critics of carbon regulations using mine spill to skewer EPA | ..

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: WASHINGTON (AP) - Authorities say rivers tainted by last week's massive spill from an abandoned Colorado gold mine are starting to recover, but for the Environmental Protection Agency the political fallout from the disaster could linger.

The federal agency's critics are already seeking to use its much-maligned handling of the mine spill to undercut the Obama administration's rollout of major regulations aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions at the nation's power plants. Members of oversight committees in both the House and Senate say they are planning hearings after Congress returns from its August recess.

"The EPA is supposed to help prevent environmental catastrophes, not cause them," said Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., a member of the House leadership and the Energy and Commerce Committee. "But, sadly, President Obama's EPA has been too busy threatening American jobs with radical regulations instead of focusing on what should be their core mission."

EPA and contract workers accidentally unleashed 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater as they inspected the idled Gold King mine on Aug. 5, just two days after Obama unveiled his Clean Power Plan during an event at the White House.

The timing could hardly be worse for the beleaguered regulatory agency, a frequent target for congressional Republicans and pro-industry groups. Attorneys general for at least 15 states say they plan to sue over the new carbon restrictions, and such coal-mining backers as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., are urging states to simply ignore new carbon rules from Washington.

Over the last week, even Democrats representing states affected by the spill have publicly criticized the agency's response as anemic. That has forced top administration officials off-message just as they were launching an effort to sell the new carbon rules to the American people.

On Tuesday, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy gave a policy speech about the new carbon-reduction program at an event in Washington. But at a news conference afterward, every question was about the mine spill. McCarthy said her agency takes full responsibility for the accident and expressed deep sorrow for the environmental harm caused to the Animas and San Juan rivers.

Following bipartisan pressure from the congressional delegations of Colorado and New Mexico, the EPA chief then departed Washington for a two-day fence-mending trip out West aimed at showing that her agency is responsive and competent.

For Republicans, it was an opportunity to put the EPA on the defensive.

"I think we have seen what happens when the EPA comes after private industry - they come after them with heavy hand," said Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. "Now, the shoe is on the other foot, and we have seen a lack of communication and coordination. ... This goes to the core competency of the EPA."

Bob Deans, a spokesman for the environmental group Natural Resources Defense Council, predicted that people would see efforts to link the spill to regulations aimed at addressing climate change for what it is - political theater.

"The public wants action on climate change and we expect our waters to be protected from mining waste," Deans said. "We count on the EPA to do both. This tragic accident hasn't changed that. If anything, it's highlighted the risks we take and the price we pay when we allow environmental threats to fester."

Still, the EPA's handling of the Gold King spill is likely to remain an issue of political debate for months to come.

"The House will continue to monitor the situation and the appropriate committees will conduct rigorous oversight to make sure the administration is assessing the damage the EPA has caused and taking action to clean it up," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Now that the EPA has accepted full responsibility, I expect President Obama to demand full accountability for what happened here."

Follow Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker at [Twitter.com/mbieseck](https://twitter.com/mbieseck)

This story has been corrected to show the name of the organization is the Natural Resources Defense Council, not the National Resources Defense Council.

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News Headline: Smoke prompts air quality alert for southwest Montana |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Smoke from wildfires has prompted the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to issue an air quality alert for counties in the southwest part of the state, including Missoula.

The alert was in effect until 4 p.m. Saturday.

Large fires are burning in western Montana forests and grasslands, sending up heavy smoke.

Fires are burning in Glacier National Park, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Helena National Forest, Flathead National Forest and elsewhere.

Some rain on Friday fell around the state's biggest fire, which has burned nearly 21 square miles in Glacier.

Meantime, red flag warnings have been posted for much of northern Montana, including Great Falls, Helena, Glasgow, Havre and Glendive.

Cooler weather is moving into the state, which should help ease the fire threat.

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News Headline: Coal company, Montana tribe sign onto Washington coal port |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...by competition from cheap natural gas and more stringent restrictions on pollution caused by burning the fuel. Port sponsor SSA Marine...

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News Headline: 'China air pollution kills 4,400 a day' |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: Stock Market XML and JSON Data API provided by FinancialContent Services, Inc. Nasdaq quotes delayed at least 15 minutes, all others at least 20...

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News Headline: RESIDENTS SEEK CHANGES ENERGY SITING RULES |

Outlet Full Name: Caledonian-Record, The

News Text: In New Hampshire, a race is on.

As the Nov. 1 deadline looms, citizens and conservation groups are petitioning the N.H. Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) for changes to the draft rules governing the siting of new energy facilities.

At the same time, energy industry groups and business associations are submitting their own proposed rules that some residents and groups say are more favorable to energy projects.

Pushing for more time for public input are many residents from the North Country who have written SEC with concerns about the impacts such projects as above-ground transmission lines and wind turbine farms would have on their property values, their quality of life and the state's scenic vistas.

“The current draft rules are far too lenient and geared toward the energy companies,” Dolly McPhaul, of Sugar Hill, said Thursday. “The SEC rules are going to be for every project from now on and somebody needs to be protecting us.”

While new rules under N.H. RSA 162-H were slated to be implemented by July 1, a N.H. Senate vote in March extended the deadline for the completion of the SEC rule-making process to Nov. 1 in an effort to allow more opportunities for public input.

Instrumental in getting that vote was state Sen. Jeanie Forrester, R-Meredith, who wrote SEC in March to express concerns that the draft rules under consideration by the committee failed to meet the statutory objectives set forth in recently enacted legislation.

To SEC Chairman Martin Honigberg, Forrester said the mandates in that legislation - Senate bills 99 and 245 and House bill 1602 -proposed new rules identifying specific criteria regarding the siting of new energy facilities and clarifying how SEC would arrive at the individual findings required under RSA 162-H.

“As prime sponsor of SB 99 and SB 245, I am disappointed that the draft rules proposals do not measure up on these two objectives,” she wrote the chairman March 23.

With the deadline extension, Forrester in her March letter told Honigberg, “it is my expectation that with this additional time the SEC will provide clearer siting criteria (with the established standards for each) and clearer foundations for reaching decisions on each of the four findings required under RSA 162-H:16, IV.”

A public meeting on the SEC rule-making is scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday at the N.H. Public Utilities Commission in Concord, where the committee will consider public comments and potential revisions regarding the proposed rules under RSA 162-H.

Among the findings in that RSA are the facility shall not have an unreasonable adverse effect on aesthetics, historic sites, air and water quality, the natural environment, and public health and safety; the facility shall not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and town governing bodies; and the issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest.

The legislation requires SEC to adopt the rules and develop specific criteria for the siting of wind energy projects, high-voltage transmission lines, natural gas pipeline

and other energy facilities.

“The rules need to be geared toward protecting the people from unnecessary projects and not toward a private company's profit,” said McPhaul.

“There is no reason an energy company should be allowed to destroy anything of anybody's.”

SEC agreed to the deadline extension, and in soliciting public comment, said it seeks input from a diverse group of stakeholders that include project developers, environmental advocates, regional organizations, municipal governments, citizens groups and other interested individuals.

Two Camps

On one side are energy industry groups, including Northern Pass parent company Eversource as well as National Grid, who in a September 2014 letter to SEC submitted their own draft rules they say are based on SEC's existing requirements for applications for certificates.

“These rules are based on past applications filed by developers of proposed energy facilities and the SEC's decisions and orders,” they wrote. “As a result, the rules codify actual existing practices and requirements. In addition, these rules reflect areas of professional agreement stemming from the SB 99 stakeholder process conducted by the Office of Energy and Planning, notably in the area of aesthetics.”

On the other side are those who feel the industry groups are looking out solely for their own interests and profit and doing what they can to tailor the process toward those ends or resist major changes in rules.

Since the public record on the committee's rule-making was opened in February 2014, a growing number of residents and conservation groups have written SEC with concerns, among them the Appalachian Mountain Club and Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests as well as area residents that include McPhaul, Patricia Kellogg, of Littleton, Kris Pastoriza, of Easton, and Whitefield businessman David Presby.

On July 27, Kellogg submitted a handwritten letter to SEC stating, “I am writing to ask the Site Evaluation Committee to change the current version of the SEC rules under consideration to honor citizens' properties and values ... Energy companies have considerable financial, political and legal advantages. The Site Evaluation Committee's duty should first be to protect the citizens and their property, not large energy projects.”

In January, Pastoriza wrote SEC about SB 99 and its mandated work groups that included a variety of stakeholders, among them residents and their concerns, with the

aim of more public participation in the SEC siting process.

“With the editing programs available it would have been simple and honest to indicate on the SEC draft rules what wording came from the industry submission, what wording came from the environmental groups' submission and what wording came from the taxpayer-funded public input groups,” wrote Pastoriza.

Pastoriza said she compared the industry submission in certain pages of the draft code and said whoever wrote the draft code appears to have cut and pasted the industry submission into it.

“Most disturbingly, the industry submission appears to have provided the format for the draft, thereby leaving no easy way of incorporating the environmental groups' suggestions,” she said. “Just as disturbing is the lack of incorporation of the suggestions made by the SB 99-mandated work groups. Many people put hours of their time into these discussions and documents yet the SEC appears to have barely attempted to include their work.”

In February, AMC, SPNHF and other conservation groups wrote SEC saying, “The energy facility siting process and requirements are of great importance to our organizations' collective commitment to protecting New Hampshire's treasured natural resources and promoting a clean energy future for our state. We believe the process should promote robust public participation and be governed by clear rules that can be predictably applied by the SEC to ensure orderly and thorough review of the environmental and economic impacts of proposed energy projects.”

But the conservation groups said the lack of specific criteria is inconsistent with the legislative intent of SB 99 and SEC's rules as proposed do not provide sufficient direction for the committee in deciding whether a project would have an unreasonable adverse impact on natural resources and aesthetics.

Citing aesthetics and the impact the controversial Northern Pass Transmission line would have on them, Eames, on July 24, wrote Gov. Maggie Hassan to ask her, “Will the headlines in the paper read ‘Gov. Hassan Stands With the Citizens of New Hampshire’ or will you be forever be remembered for selling us out to Hydro-Quebec because you did not pressure the SEC to stand with us and protect our natural landscape from Northern Pass?”

On July 31, citing the recently released federal environmental impact study on the elective Northern Pass project, Presby told SEC that Northern Pass can be buried and the company “certainly has the money and resources to do so.” Burial, he said, would preserve both the region's recreation and tourism economy and property values and the tax bases of towns.

“Please change the current rules under consideration so they fairly honor the values and property of the citizens of New Hampshire,” wrote Presby. “Large companies

like Eversource already have seemingly limitless financial, political and legal advantages -level the playing field so that citizens and their property have an equal voice in the consideration of any large energy projects in New Hampshire.”

In March, the N.H. Business and Industry Association, representing many energy industry groups, wrote SEC saying its primary concern is the cost of electricity and the state's economic vitality.

“To that end, BIA requests that the SEC adopt rules that provide a fair and certain regulatory process that will enable the development of needed energy infrastructure in New Hampshire ... and take care to avoid rules that are overly restrictive ...” the association wrote.

McPhaul wrote SEC several times and has proposed that every project brought before the committee be labeled “essential” or “elective,” as classified with ISO-New England, with elective projects being optional projects not needed to keep the lights on.

She proposed that elective projects “abide by the municipality or town government's master plan and regulations,” that all elective transmission lines “be buried unless proven it is not possible ...,” and elective projects “abide by the will of the people.”

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News Headline: Revision Energy wins innovation award |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...Nights: Focus on Clean Energy, co-hosted by NH Innovation Nights and Environment NH. “We've learned over the past 40 years under the...

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News Headline: DEEP: Unhealthy air quality projected for Middlesex County on Monday, Aug. 17 |

Outlet Full Name: Middletown Press - Online

News Text: MIDDLETOWN >> For nearly three decades, the city has been a destination for amateur volleyball players hoping to sink their competition into the...

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News Headline: Coal Company, Montana Tribe Sign Onto Washington Coal Port |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: ...by competition from cheap natural gas and more stringent restrictions on pollution caused by burning the fuel. Port sponsor SSA Marine...

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News Headline: Kevin J. Corey: Some questions regarding Clean River Energy Center |

Outlet Full Name: Providence Journal Online, The

News Text: ...and supply is limited, I certainly hope plans are being made to have an LNG storage system on site to offset peak prices and ensure the...

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News Headline: RI issues alert for unhealthy air quality starting Saturday |

Outlet Full Name: Providence Journal Online, The

News Text: PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Air quality is expected to reach unhealthy levels Saturday afternoon and possibly continue through Monday, state...

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News Headline: Gov. Charlie Baker helps BCC flip the switch on solar canopy |

Outlet Full Name: SouthCoastToday.com

News Text: ...for others ... trying to pursue different sources in trying to reduce our carbon footprint and to provide alternatives to more...

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News Headline: From toxic waste dump, solar energy at Tyngsboro landfill |

Outlet Full Name: Sun Online

News Text: ...praised by town officials as a plan that will generate money from the Superfund site. The project that Tyngsborough Solar, LLC hopes to...

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News Headline: How Alaska's quest to power remote villages could help spread renewable energy worldwide |

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online

News Text: ...a spray — at least until the turbine is submerged. Anticipation is high — renewable energy from rivers holds promise beyond...

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News Headline: Colorado spill a blip in legacy of leaking abandoned mines |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...many millions of dollars simply to manage and not even remove the toxic wastewater from an abandoned mine that unleashed a 100-mile-long...

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News Headline: Clean up your act, Belmont |

Outlet Full Name: Boston Globe, The

News Text: Water quality monitoring shows that this outlet of Winn's Brook into Little Pond in Belmont has some of the highest bacteria levels in the entire Mystic River Watershed.

Let's get the indelicate part out of the way up top: This column is about poop.

Specifically, Belmont's poop, which a new federal report points to as an especially big culprit in the Mystic River's poor water quality. Despite years of warnings from state and federal regulators, and millions spent on the town's stormwater system, too much of the wealthy suburb's sewage continues to leak into waterways and surrounding communities. Unless the town tidies up, it may be time for regulators to crack down.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Belmont's municipal stormwater system has been in "significant violation" of the Clean Water Act for the last three years, based on bacteria levels recorded at storm-drain outfalls. Belmont is currently the only municipality in Greater Boston under such a warning. The town's environmental rap sheet also includes state water-quality violations in 2000 and 2007, the result of sewage leaking into storm drains. Those drains empty into tributaries of Alewife Brook, which in turn flows into the Mystic.

The town has spent more than \$8 million on upgrades over the last 12 years. But that investment hasn't translated into much progress, according to water quality tests. The town's spending also trails Cambridge, which has put more than \$100 million into stormwater upgrades, and even much poorer cities like Revere, which agreed to make \$50 million in investments to their stormwater systems.

A new report from the EPA and the Mystic River Watershed Association puts the problem in sharper focus. The Mystic River has historically received low water quality marks; last year, it got a D. But that river-wide grade masked geographical differences that the new report lays bare. For instance, the stretch of river near Somerville's Assembly Square is now clean enough for swimming on most days; in the new report card it earned a B+.

Belmont's Winn's Brook, in contrast, got an F. On many days, just getting splashed with the water coming out of the culvert flowing into Little Pond, which in turn flows into Alewife and the Mystic, poses a health hazard. (The town's director of community development, Glenn Clancy, didn't return a phone call or e-mail.)

To be fair, Belmont is not the only problem area the report highlighted in the Mystic River's watershed. Like most municipalities in Massachusetts, Belmont has aging pipes that are costly to repair. Island End River in Everett and Mill Creek in Chelsea got Fs too.

Sewage pollution is a problem that can be solved if municipalities make it a priority, adding enforcement to close illegal hookups to storm drains, or spending more on upgrades. Meanwhile, the EPA could help prod communities along by referring them to the Department of Justice, as it did with Revere before that city signed a consent decree in 2010 to improve its system. An EPA official, Todd Borci, said legal action is "always one of the tools that we look at" to bring communities into compliance.

In the long run, though, towns and cities may need to find different ways to finance stormwater-system improvements, so those unglamorous projects don't have to compete for funding with more politically popular programs. A few cities in Massachusetts, including Newton, have set up separate stormwater utilities, which assess fees on businesses and homeowners to maintain the drainage system. Although it's been slow to catch on in New England, the idea makes a lot of sense, in part because it lets municipalities charge by the amount of stormwater that property-owners generate.

By identifying weak links instead of giving the entire Mystic one grade, the new report sought to focus attention where it's most needed. It shouldn't take another EPA report card to drive home the point that when it comes to Belmont — and its downstream neighbors — the current arrangement stinks.

Alan Wirzbicki is a Globe editorial writer. He can be reached at awirzbicki@globe.com

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News Headline: Colorado river spill: Fixing the 1872 law that haunts thousands of

old mines |

Outlet Full Name: Christian Science Monitor, The

News Text: The US Environmental Protection Agency says it's now safe for recreational boaters to use the Animas River following a mine waste spill in Colorado that befouled the river with toxic metals and turned it a mustard yellow.

But the long-term effects of the spill at the Gold King mine are unknown, and the episode points to a much larger environmental problem - many thousands of such mines across the West, many of them abandoned and with piles of potentially polluting materials left behind after the ground had been scraped and scoured and blown up in the search for gold, silver, and other valuable minerals.

The problem has its historical roots in the General Mining Law signed by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872 and still in effect.

Critics say the law made it too easy for individuals and corporations to obtain the rights (and sometimes the title) to areas claimed for mining on public land, demanded no royalties on the profits from such mining (which are required of other extractive industries, including coal, oil, and natural gas), and made no provision for cleaning up mine waste.

The industry - which has grown from individuals with a pick ax and a dusty mule to large corporations with massive earth moving equipment - denies this, noting modernized means and methods of extracting valuable minerals from the land, most of it in the American West.

The problem in Colorado started on August 5 when EPA contractors inadvertently breached an old, no longer active gold mine, sending three million gallons of toxic sludge containing arsenic, lead, and other substances downstream, polluting the Animas River and threatening water quality in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and the Navajo reservation. The contractors had been investigating contaminated wastewater leaking from the mine, which had stopped operating in 1923.

Since then, reports EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, "The plume of contaminated water has dissipated downstream, and our efforts to trap and treat the discharge are helping to protect communities along the river from further impacts."

"We're continuing to monitor and to sample water quality in areas that could be affected by the spill," Ms. McCarthy wrote on her Facebook page. "We'll release our analysis as soon as we're able."

"We take responsibility for the spill," she wrote. "We're working closely with state and local partners and with tribal nations as our efforts progress. We're going to see this through and get it right."

Based on past experience, that could mean a very long and very costly effort.

The Associated Press reports two major examples:

California's 150-year-old Iron Mountain mine discharged six tons of toxic sludge a day before a clean-up by the EPA, which declared it a Superfund site in 1983, 20 years after it shut down. The sludge caused massive fish kills in the Sacramento River system, which supplies a fifth of the state's water, more than 30 times. Authorities now spend \$5 million a year to remove poisons, and expect to keep at it forever.

At Montana's Berkeley Pit, meanwhile, an acid lake created when Atlantic Richfield Co. turned off the pumps at its copper mine in 1982 grows by millions of gallons every day. The EPA made it a Superfund site, too, planning to keep acid spills from Butte Valley waterways. Meanwhile, the notorious pit grows in infamy: In 1995, an entire flock of migrating snow geese perished after setting down in the water.

"The 1872 Law's legacy includes 550,000 abandoned and inactive mines; 10,000 miles of degraded rivers and streams; hundreds of polluted lakes and reservoirs; and, more than 50 Superfund sites," reports the Center for Environmental Equity. Mining activity has contaminated the headwaters of more than 40 percent of watersheds in the West, according to the EPA.

Earthworks, another nonprofit environmental organization, estimates that it will cost taxpayers between \$32-72 billion to clean up these mines. A congressional report based on EPA figures put the total cleanup costs for such hardrock mines at \$20-54 billion.

"Westerners should stand up and take notice: Our communities are at risk," Earthworks policy director Lauren Pagel wrote in a CNN opinion column. "This is not our first mining disaster and it won't be the last. Until we tackle the root cause of mining pollution and modernize the 1872 mining law, we are gambling away our most precious resource, water."

In 2007, the US House of Representatives passed the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act, which prevented companies from gaining full title to land on which they had established mining claims, set new environmental rules, and established an 8 percent royalty on the gross incomes from mining. The bill died in the US Senate.

Critics of the 1872 mine law are trying again. In February, Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, introduced the Hardrock Mining Reform and Reclamation Act of 2015.

The bill would: establish an 8 percent royalty on new mines and a 4 percent royalty on existing mines; use those royalties and money raised by newly established pollution fees to clean up abandoned hardrock mine lands; end the patenting system

that allows companies to purchase public land containing minerals for as little as \$2.50 per acre; establish strong reclamation standards and bonding requirements aimed at companies that cease work at a particular mine or go bankrupt; protect wilderness study areas, roadless areas, and wild and scenic rivers from mining; and allow state, local, and tribal governments to petition federal authorities to withdraw certain areas from mining in order to protect drinking water, wildlife habitat, cultural and historic resources, or other important values.

To date, the bill has 26 cosponsors - all Democrats.

Even if such legislation were to pass - likely an even longer shot in the Republican-controlled Senate, where Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada is the son of a hardrock miner - it would still leave those many thousands of old mines leaking toxic waste, threatening wildlife, water quality, and local economies.

"You can expect such failures like the one we had at Gold King," Ron Cohen, a civil and environmental engineering professor at the Colorado School of Mines, told The Wall Street Journal. "These sites are just sitting there waiting to fail, and most of them are going to fail sooner or later."

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News Headline: Kayakers collect boatloads of trash from Great Bay | .

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...many challenges — too much nitrogen; the loss of eelgrass and oysters; and stormwater pollution. But progress is being made on many...

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News Headline: EPA Chief: 'Holding Ourselves To A Higher Standard' | .

Outlet Full Name: NPR/National Public Radio

News Text: SCOTT SIMON: Boaters can go back to the Animas River. The Environmental Protection Agency is cleaning up political, as well as environmental damage, after this month's toxic spill at the Gold King Mine in Colorado. An EPA contractor accidentally released heavy metals into the Animas River during work to stop toxins from leaching out of the mine, which was shut decades ago. That spill turned the river into an unnatural yellow-orange ribbon that ran through the landscape. Gina McCarthy is administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and she joins us now. Administrator McCarthy, thanks very much for being with us.

GINA MCCARTHY: It's great to be here, Scott. Thanks for the invitation.

SCOTT SIMON: And has that flow of toxins downstream been stopped?

GINA MCCARTHY: Well, actually the plume has been moving down, and it's dissipated. And now the challenge for us is to make sure that we take a look at water quality, see what kind of users can return and then stay there for a while, while we look to make sure that the entire river is cleaned up from any damage associated with the spill. EPA has to take full responsibility, both today and in the future, for this.

SCOTT SIMON: Do you know yet what and how this happened?

GINA MCCARTHY: Not in detail, Scott, but, I mean, the important thing to remember is EPA was out there taking a look at assessing this mine because we knew that there was contamination from the mining areas entering into these rivers, and it had been going on for decades. But the important thing to remember is that these mining operations do leave wastewater behind, and three million gallons of it is what was released. And we feel terrible about that as the agency that's really working to make sure that this type of contamination doesn't happen. But there is a legacy issue here that we all have to turn our attention to.

SCOTT SIMON: The legacy issue being - what? - thousands of mines - aren't there? - throughout the West.

GINA MCCARTHY: Thousands of mines are there, yes. This is not by any means a situation that we're going to resolve just to take care of this three million gallon spill. This is thousands of mines in Colorado alone. And there is a need to throw some significant resources to this issue if we expect to get our arms around it and not see anything like this ever happen again.

SCOTT SIMON: Why did it, according to the reports, take 24 hours for local officials to be informed?

GINA MCCARTHY: Well, I think many were informed, but there is clearly a need for us to do a re-look at whether or not we told everybody we needed to tell in the most expeditious way. We took, I think, our lumps in the beginning for not notifying as quickly as we could, but we certainly took action. And we started our sampling quickly so that we could provide information quickly about when that plume had moved forward and whether or not the water quality was getting better. And the good news is that it is. Now, this is a horrible place for the agency that - whose mission it is to protect public health and the environment, who was solely out there to take a look at this wastewater. And I think folks might have been caught off guard, and we'll just look at it and make sure that we notify more quickly in the future.

SCOTT SIMON: Governor Martinez of New Mexico asked a question that I want to put to you. Imagine what would happen if a private company caused this waste spill.

GINA MCCARTHY: Yeah, I mean, we would certainly be on them, but I think

Governor Martinez knows - and I frankly just got off the phone with her about 20 minutes ago (laughter) - she knows that this is a difficult position for EPA to be in. But I assured her and others that we are holding ourselves to a higher standard than we would hold other responsible parties.

SCOTT SIMON: I understand the determination as to how and what happened has to be made after considerable investigation in the future, but can you see where a local community would now be concerned if a contractor showed up and said, we're here to clear up that mine site; don't worry, we're from the EPA?

GINA MCCARTHY: (Laughter) I sure can see that EPA has lost some steps here. But let me be clear on a few things, Scott - is we've been doing work in these mines for decades. This is the most unusual circumstance that anyone will see, is EPA in this position. And in the meantime, until we find out exactly what happened here, I have also taken the step of making sure that we take a step back. We stop these mining assessments and cleanup until we're sure that they are not similarly situated for a potential problem, and we work through these issues together.

SCOTT SIMON: Gina McCarthy, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Thanks so much for being with us.

GINA MCCARTHY: Thank you, Scott.

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News Headline: Mine Cleanups' Uphill Fight | ...

Outlet Full Name: Wall Street Journal Online

News Text: ...at least 33,000 of them have polluted local water sources or left piles of arsenic-laced tailings, according to federal estimates. Mining...

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News Headline: Minot receives \$6M from FEMA to help protect treatment plant | ...

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: MINOT, N.D. (AP) - The city of Minot will use a \$6 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help protect the city's water treatment plant and keep it functioning during a flood.

The money is the first installment of a second phase of a project to improve flood protection for the plant, according to U.S. Sen. John Hoeven.

The plant is the only source of drinkable water for the city, Minot Air Force Base

and many rural residents in the area. More than 100,000 people were put on a boil order when the plant was hit by Souris River flooding in 2011.

In a statement, Hoeven said the funding will "will play a critical role in supporting Minot's ongoing efforts to recover."

The latest funds will be used in part to build log structures that would close a gap created by a road running through the levee in the event of a flood, The Minot Daily News reported (<http://bit.ly/1J7V3IC>).

The FEMA money is part of the \$19.8 million federal share of the \$26 million second phase of a project to improve flood protection for the plant. The city received a \$2 million FEMA grant in 2013 for the first phase.

The total cost of the project with engineering, environment assessment, construction and other expenses is \$29 million. The city's 15 percent local share will come from money in the 2014 water plant budget. The state is covering 10 percent.

The first phase was completed in September 2014 and focused on engineering, permitting and designing the project.

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News Headline: Protesters storm open-pit coal mine in western Germany |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...mine in western Germany to protest the use of coal, a major source of greenhouse gases. The German news agency dpa reports that...

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News Headline: Rhode Island researchers study link between heat and health |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...deaths will increase in New England if temperatures rise due to climate change. Based on their work so far, they think the...

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News Headline: Protesters storm open-pit coal mine in western Germany |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: BERLIN (AP) - Environmental activists have stormed a lignite mine in

western Germany to protest the use of coal, a major source of greenhouse gases.

The German news agency dpa reports that several hundred people from a group calling itself EndeGelaende - which loosely translates as "it's finished now" - broke through a police line in Garzweiler, west of Cologne.

Police spokesman Anton Hamacher says officers used pepper spray to stop the crowd and are removing protesters from the site.

A spokesman for German energy company RWE says several huge bucket-wheel excavators used at the open-pit mine had to be shut down for safety reasons. Spokesman Lothar Lambertz says RWE has canceled plans to bring employees onto the site to rally in favor of coal mining.

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News Headline: EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: WASHINGTON (AP) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tightened standards for the nation's landfills to reduce...

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News Headline: R.I. study to look at rising heat, health |

Outlet Full Name: Boston Globe, The

News Text: PROVIDENCE — Researchers in Rhode Island are working with health departments in other states to figure out if the number of emergency room visits and heat-related deaths will increase in New England if temperatures rise due to climate change.

Based on their work so far, they think the numbers will go up.

The researchers are discussing their work with the Taunton, Mass., office of the National Weather Service, which issues heat advisories and warnings for much of southern New England.

Glenn Field, the office's warning coordination meteorologist, said the office will consider changing the threshold for its advisories based on the study's results, but staff there worry whether doing so could cause them to send out so many advisories that they're ignored by the public.

"That could lead to advisory fatigue, but we're certainly willing to listen," he said.

Brown University and the Rhode Island Department of Health recently collaborated on a study that found that as temperatures rise even moderately, the number of heat-related emergency room visits and deaths increase among people of all ages. It projected that those rates would be substantially higher if temperatures increase as projected, due to climate change.

Many previous studies looked at the impact of extreme heat on health, but not at the effects of more moderate, future increases, according to the authors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided a grant for the study.

US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat, said it gives him another piece of evidence in his fight to spur action to address climate change. Ailis Clyne, a medical director at the state health department, said the work will help guide policies in response to the public health impacts of climate change.

Brown University associate professor Gregory Wellenius, the study's senior author, said health departments in New Hampshire and Maine were also looking at the relationship between heat and health so he reached out to them to compare results, which he expects to be similar across New England.

"The focus of our work, our regional collaboration, is to help the National Weather Service and departments of health in these states best protect the public from the dangers of heat," he said. "To do that, we're trying to provide the evidence the National Weather Service needs to issue heat advisories and heat warnings in the most appropriate manner possible."

The service's Taunton office issues a heat advisory when the forecast calls for the heat index to reach 100 to 104 degrees within 24 to 36 hours, and issues a heat warning when it will reach 105 degrees or above, Field said.

The office has issued one heat advisory so far this summer, on July 19, and heat warnings are very rare, Field said. He said they're planning to invite the researchers to a meeting with other New England meteorologists in Maine in September.

"Lowering the threshold is a possibility," Field said. "We're not just discounting it. But it would be a very involved process."

Wellenius said he hopes the findings for the region can be published within a year.

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News Headline: EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills |

Outlet Full Name: Boston Herald Online

News Text: WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tightened standards for the nation's landfills to reduce...

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News Headline: EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills |

Outlet Full Name: Boston.com

News Text: Stock Market XML and JSON Data API provided by FinancialContent Services, Inc. Nasdaq quotes delayed at least 15 minutes, all others at least 20...

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News Headline: Protecting the polar bears |

Outlet Full Name: Chronicle, The

News Text: Dear EarthTalk: How have polar bear populations in the Arctic been faring since the United States put them on its endangered species list in 2008, and what efforts are under way to protect them? - Melissa Underhill, Bangor, Maine

Biologists estimate as many as 25,000 polar bears roam the far north these days, with two-thirds of them in Canada and most of the remainder in Alaska and northern Russia. Environmentalists cheered in May 2008 when the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed polar bears as threatened under the Endangered Species Act because of forecast evidence that circumpolar warming is melting sea ice, the great white carnivore's primary habitat. This listing represented the first time that climate change effects were officially considered as a cause for a species' decline, emboldening activists to start calling for stricter regulations on carbon emissions nationwide.

Polar bears have been "protected" in the U.S. since 2008, but only recently has the USFWS released a species management plan. The Draft Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan (CMP) outlines six strategies to manage bear populations, including limiting global atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases to levels suitable for supporting polar bear recovery and conservation, supporting international protection efforts, managing human-polar bear conflicts, collaboratively managing polar bear hunting by Alaska natives, protecting polar bear denning habitats and minimizing risk of contamination from oil spills.

While saving polar bears is not the only reason to curb greenhouse gases, the CMP prioritizes that public officials start factoring in the "consequences to polar bears and their habitats of the likely effects of the current baseline greenhouse gases scenario" and "prompt the needed actions to maintain and, as needed, restore sea ice habitat by implementing sufficient regulatory, market-driven or voluntary actions."

As for supporting international efforts, the USFWS is aligning with Russia to protect denning habitats in Chukotka and on Wrangel Island, where almost all denning for the Chukchi Sea population occurs, and with Canada to support polar bear management efforts in the Canadian Archipelago.

To manage human-polar bear conflicts, FWS is joining communities and industry to develop safety procedures for bear encounters and establish best practices for garbage management and bear-proof food-storage options to reduce food attractants that draw polar bears into human communities. The agency has also committed to expand the scope and improve the effectiveness of community polar bear patrols.

Polar bears are hunted in 15 Alaskan villages for meat or handicrafts like mittens and mukluks, and the USFWS plans to collaborate with the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Nanuuq Commission and others on implementing sustainable hunt management strategies in these villages. The USFWS is also working to minimize development and disturbance on barrier islands, which provide crucial bear habitat.

To reduce the risk of contamination from an oil spill, the USFWS will continue to provide feedback on oil exploration plans and ensure responders and companies have current information on seasonal bear movements and important habitat areas. Standard operating procedures are in the works for the rescue and handling of oiled bears. The USFWS estimates that implementing the CMP over the next five years will cost almost \$13 million. Comments on the plan will be accepted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal (search Docket No. FWS-R7-ES-2014-0060) through Aug. 20.

For more information, contact the FWS Polar Bear Draft Conservation Management Plan, www.fws.gov/alaska/PDFs/PBRT%20Recovery%20Plan%20Book.pdf; Environment Canada's Conservation of Polar Bears in Canada, www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.

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News Headline: Letter: Straight talk on climate | .

Outlet Full Name: Concord Monitor Online

News Text: ...the huge gap between scientific reality and public perceptions relating to climate change. This gap widens even more when...

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News Headline: Rhode Island researchers study link between heat and health | .

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...deaths will increase in New England if temperatures rise due to climate change. Based on their work so far, they think the...

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News Headline: EPA tightens rules for greenhouse gas emissions at landfills |

Outlet Full Name: Greenwich Time Online

News Text: WASHINGTON (AP) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tightened standards for the nation's landfills to reduce...

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News Headline: EPA Tightens Rules for Greenhouse Gas Emissions at Landfills |

Outlet Full Name: New York Times Online, The

News Text: WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tightened standards for the nation's landfills to reduce...

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News Headline: Soil fest contributes to talk about global climate change |

Outlet Full Name: St. Albans Messenger

News Text: First, thanks to you, Michelle Monroe and your

editorial staff for the pre-and post-event coverage that the Messenger provided for Vermont's First Annual Soil Fest, held Saturday, Aug. 8, in St. Albans City's Taylor Park.

To encapsulate: Soil Fest was a great, first-time success. More than 200 people attended and enjoyed a summer Saturday of great weather, music and free food from Bob's Meat Market. Judith Schwartz and her book, "Cows Save the Planet," were a hit, and St. Albans musician Melinda Lussier deserves a big thank-you.

I'd also like to personally thank Vermont Organics Reclamation's community partner on Soil Fest, Jim Stiles, and our co-sponsors: the Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation; the City of St. Albans; the St. Albans Cooperative Creamery (which also donated 200 free cartons of milk to Soil Fest), LD Oliver Seed, Peoples Trust Company, LoVermont (802), Ethan Allen Coachworks, and MITI Construction.

We succeeded in our mission: to gather a few-hundred people in a small corner of the world, for a small sliver of time, to start a conversation about how air water and soil — not just one or two — can affect climate change, and what role we all have in that. We don't stop here, and, judging by Saturday's turnout and energy, we will be busy, moving ahead. Therefore, due to demand both at Soil Fest, and from feedback I've received, we are planning two Soil Fests for 2016. One is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21, and we are already in talks to hold Soil Fest in conjunction with another key community event, in St. Albans. The other 2016 Soil Fest, or an event similar to it, would be held around the same time next August.

Thank you again, everyone, and stay tuned. Tim Camisa

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News Headline: Young People Sue US Over Climate Change |

Outlet Full Name: WELI-AM Online

News Text: (NEWSER) – A group of 8- to 19-year-olds says climate change will doom the future unless changes are made now—and they're trying to...

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News Headline: R.I. researchers engaged in heat-and-health study |

Outlet Full Name: Westerly Sun, The

News Text: Associated Press

PROVIDENCE - Researchers in Rhode Island are working with health departments in other states to figure out if the number of emergency room visits and heat-related deaths will increase in New England if temperatures rise because of climate change.

Based on their work so far, they think the numbers will go up.

The researchers are discussing their work with the Taunton, Massachusetts, office of the National Weather Service, which issues heat advisories and warnings for much of southern New England.

Glenn Field, the office's warning coordination meteorologist, said the office will consider changing the threshold for its advisories based on the study's results, but staff there worry whether doing so could cause them to send out so many advisories that they're ignored by the public.

"That could lead to advisory fatigue, but we're certainly willing to listen," he said.

Brown University and the Rhode Island Department of Health recently collaborated on a study that found that as temperatures rise even moderately, the number of heat-related emergency room visits and deaths increase among people of all ages. It projected that those rates would be substantially higher if temperatures increase as projected, due to climate change.

Many previous studies looked at the impact of extreme heat on health, but not at the effects of more moderate, future increases, according to the authors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided a grant for the study.

U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat, said it gives him another piece of evidence in his fight to spur action to address climate change. Ailis Clyne, a medical director at the Rhode Island Department of Health, said the work will help guide policies in response to the public health impacts of climate change.

Brown University associate professor Gregory Wellenius, the study's senior author, said health departments in New Hampshire and Maine were also looking at the relationship between heat and health so he reached out to them to compare results, which he expects to be similar across New England.

"The focus of our work, our regional collaboration, is to help the National Weather Service and Departments of Health in these states best protect the public from the dangers of heat," Wellenius said. "To do that, we're trying to provide the evidence the National Weather Service needs to issue heat advisories and heat warnings in the most appropriate manner possible."

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Wellenius said he hopes the findings for the region can be published within a year.

"We're trying to provide the evidence the National Weather Service needs to issue heat advisories and heat warnings in the most appropriate manner possible."

Gregory Wellenius, Brown University

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News Headline: Massachusetts energy delegation heading to Switzerland |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...sharing of ideas. One goal is to help the state push ahead in developing renewable energy sources. The focus of the event — billed...

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News Headline: Algae bloom forces closure of Lake Pocotopaug beaches in East Hampton |

Outlet Full Name: Middletown Press, The

News Text: ...Lakes and Ponds.” Advertisement The town and state both monitor water quality in the lake. A test last week “indicated a very...

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News Headline: West Nile Confirmed In Mosquitoes Collected In... |

Outlet Full Name: iBerkshires.com

News Text: ...rid of standing water, where the mosquitos congregate, and lay down pesticides to kill the larva. When mosquito numbers rise to a certain...

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News Headline: NH communities debate aging infrastructure | ..

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...fish swimming upstream from the Atlantic as well as the quality of drinking water in neighboring towns. When it came for Exeter...

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News Headline: Md. housing chief suggests deliberate lead poisoning |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: ...He used it to illustrate his argument that the liability of landlords in

lead paint cases should be limited. Advocates for...

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News Headline: Official: Housing chief's lead paint remarks "ridiculous." |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: OCEAN CITY, Md. (AP) - Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford says Maryland's housing chief's comments about seeking to limit liability of landlords in lead paint cases are "ridiculous."

Rutherford responded to questions Saturday about comments made a day earlier by State Housing, Community and Development Secretary Kenneth Holt. Holt told an audience at a gathering of county leaders that a mother could put a lead fishing weight in a child's mouth and then get the child tested for lead paint poisoning.

Holt told The Baltimore Sun Friday he used "an anecdotal story" to illustrate that landlord liability in lead paint cases should be limited.

Rutherford told reporters Holt never spoke to Republican Gov. Larry Hogan or senior staff about the idea. Rutherford says the administration has no plans to limit landlord liability in lead paint cases.

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News Headline: Duckweed arrives earlier than usual in Dover |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...river's oxygen levels in some localized areas. The Coheco River is not a drinking water source, so the duckweed would not affect...

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News Headline: Drought impact growing across the Seacoast |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...shows no signs of going away and Seacoast communities continue to push water conservation on customers. Towns such as Barrington and...

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News Headline: Toxic algae plagues beaches at Iowa's state parks |

Outlet Full Name: USA Today Online

News Text: ...toxins or not,” said Mary Skopec, an Iowa Department of Natural Resources water quality expert. “It's better to be safe than sorry.”...

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News Headline: Sides agree on lawyer fees in Arkansas hog farm case |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Two federal agencies have agreed with attorneys for environmental groups on a proposed settlement for attorney fees in a lawsuit over a hog farm near the Buffalo National River.

The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports (<http://bit.ly/1DVOBs5>) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration have agreed to pay \$250,000 to attorneys with Earthjustice, Earthrise Law Center and Little Rock-based Carney Bates Pulliam. The proposal now goes to a federal judge for approval.

The attorneys filed a lawsuit in 2013 alleging the agencies improperly conducted an environmental assessment on C&H Hog Farms in Mount Judea that led them to back loans to the facility.

A federal judge agreed and ordered a new study, which indicated no likely significant effect from the farm on the Buffalo River watershed area.

Information from: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, <http://www.arkansasonline.com>

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News Headline: River in Colorado reopens as toxic plume reaches Lake Powell |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...Southwest. Water officials, however, said the plume that includes lead, arsenic and other heavy metals now presents little danger to users...

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News Headline: The Latest: EPA says no risk from Colorado river sediments |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press Online

News Text: ...But David Ostrander with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says contamination levels still were too low to be a concern. Testing...

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News Headline: Coalition for Water Resources |

Outlet Full Name: Milford Daily News, The

News Text: MILFORD — The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship announced the election of Vonnice M. Reis, Milford town engineer and a resident of Millis, to its board of directors. Reis has worked for the Town of Milford since 2013.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Science in civil and environmental engineering from Northeastern University.

She is a registered Professional Engineer in Massachusetts and has over 25 years of experience. Prior to becoming a town engineer, she was a project manager for engineering consulting firms for water, wastewater and infrastructure projects.

Her experience includes stormwater management, long-term water resource planning, design of treatment and collection systems and management of the construction of water and wastewater facilities.

The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship is a coalition of municipalities; public agencies that transport and treat drinking water, wastewater and stormwater; quasi-government agencies and private and nonprofit organizations.

For information: 617-357-5772, kbarrett@reginavilla.com, mcwrs.org.

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News Headline: EPA puts teeth in efforts |

Outlet Full Name: St. Albans Messenger

News Text: BURLINGTON — The mood

was positive and proud on the shores of Burlington's North Beach Friday as a large group of state and federal officials announced a final draft plan for the restoration of Lake Champlain, the TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load.

Among those present were Gov. Peter Shumlin, U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency Region 1 Administrator Curt Spaulding, Vermont Agencies of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Transportation officials, water quality advocates, legislators, scientists, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) members and others officially

“We stand here, on Vermont's most beautiful natural resource, Lake Champlain... to celebrate that Vermont and the EPA have come to a meeting of minds,” said Shumlin.

The plan, the main part of which is the EPA-established Lake Champlain phosphorous Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL), sets pollution targets for Vermont. Paired with funds raised by the Vermont Clean Water Act passed by the Legislature this past spring and technical support from state agencies, the plan will begin addressing pollution caused by nutrients in runoff from agriculture, forestry, streambank erosion and wastewater treatment plants.

That pollution, mainly hundreds of tons of phosphorous loading in waterways and the lake, causes potentially toxic blue-green algae blooms.

The governor said the plan was made possible by the state's partnership with – and not avoidance of – the EPA.

He added that it was a smart plan, since, had the EPA just born down with its regulatory power, the real sources of pollution – mainly agricultural practices – wouldn't haven't been addressed.

In addition to the partnership between the EPA and the state, Shumlin noted that willingness of Vermont farmers, the demands and feedback from water quality advocates, such as Friends of Northern Lake Champlain and, really, the lawsuit CLF brought against the state, helped create the urgent and informative approach to the plan.

Spaulding of the EPA commented on the specialness of Vermont's approach. “It's unusual to see how a group can come together and pull in the same direction,” he said. “The fact that the Vermont Legislature stood up and owned an environmental issue ... that is really unique.”

He added that the process really reflected the plan's proposed implementation – everyone has to be involved. “The whole landscape needs to be addressed,” he said.

He said that while the EPA determined the pollution reduction targets, it would be up to Vermont to do the work. “To get there, the road to a cleaner, more resilient lake is in the hands of Vermont.”

The plan

As to the road ahead – it's not going to be an easy one. ANR secretary Deb Markowitz said, “Now we've got to actually implement – that's when the hard work begins.

There will be four main goals of the Lake Champlain plan:

- getting resources on the ground to implement a water quality program
- program support for cities and towns
- building new rules and regulations
- facilitating collaboration “We've already deployed

staff and resources to troubled areas,” said Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Ross, adding that 100 farms in northwestern Vermont have already been assessed.

A Department

of Environmental

Conservation “SWAT team” will be sent out to targeted municipalities, too.

“The TMDL doesn't sound sexy, but really, it is the backbone,” said Markowitz.

Ross said, “We are connecting the resources, financial, human and heart, to help restore this lake to the water body it used to be.”

Markowitz said the Vermont Clean Water Act funds, private business donations like \$5 million from Green Mountain Keurig, higher developer fees, the cost of switching to environmentally friendly agriculture – money is going to have to come from every corner to accomplish this major undertaking.

“It's going to be more expensive to do this right across Vermont,” she said.

But it is necessary, added Ross. “It's going to be even more costly if we don't do it.”

“The most expensive thing we can do,” said Shumlin, “is nothing.”

Spauling added that all the work, funds and changes would be worth it.

“At the end of the day,” he said, “people will look back at this moment...and say, ‘that's when the future of Lake Champlain was saved.’”

There is a 30-day comment period for the final draft plan. Public meetings will be held in various locations, including St. Albans.

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News Headline: LAKE CHAMPLAIN: EPA limits put pressure on farms, sewage facility |

Outlet Full Name: St. Albans Messenger - Online

News Text: ...by the federal government for agricultural fields in the final draft of pollution limits in the Lake Champlain TMDL (total maximum daily...

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News Headline: Burials at sea grow in popularity |

Outlet Full Name: Foster's Daily Democrat Online

News Text: ...to six months, the metal balls create a reef for sea life, he said. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations require...

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News Headline: New Hampshire Rare Bird Alert | New Hampshire |

Outlet Full Name: New Hampshire Union Leader Online

News Text: ...Monday, Aug. 10. An immature little gull was reported from the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on Aug. 7. At least two pairs of...

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News Headline: State clears San Juan River for irrigation, recreation |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah is giving the OK for its San Juan River water to be used for crop irrigation and livestock. Utah's Department of Environmental Quality says tests also clear the river for visitors wanting to use it for recreation.

The agency announced late Friday that Utah's agriculture department lifted advisories against using the water saying most of the contamination from the Gold King Mine spill flowed through days earlier.

A Utah State University veterinary toxicologist says the highest levels of remaining contamination carried short-term and minimal exposure risks but posed no harm to

animals, plants and soil.

The agriculture agency advises farmers and ranchers to report any crop or livestock health issues they observe.

Recreational river-goers are still encouraged to bring their own water and not filter river water to drink.

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News Headline: Series of explosions rocks Texas oil field chemical supplier |

Outlet Full Name: Associated Press

News Text: CONROE, Texas (AP) - A series of explosions rocked an oil field chemical supply company north of Houston on Friday, setting off a fire that sent a broad, dense column of thick, black smoke towering into the otherwise blue skies.

Authorities knew of no injuries from the explosions and blaze that erupted about 4:30 p.m., said Conroe Fire Marshal Mike Legoudes.

Firefighters took about two hours to bring the fire under control at the DrillChem plant on the eastern fringe of Conroe, about 40 miles north of Houston. It was unclear if anyone was in the building at the time of the explosions.

Jennifer Nichols-Contella, spokeswoman for the Montgomery County Hospital District, said ambulances were sent to the scene as a precaution, but no injuries were reported.

Units from several fire departments and a hazardous-materials team were at the scene. Residents up to 2 miles from the fire site were told to remain indoors. By nightfall, the alert had been reduced to a half-mile radius.

The cause of the explosions was unclear and an investigation has begun, Legoudes said. Air monitors have been set up to check for toxic air pollutants, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been notified, he said.

Wayne Patterson, who lives less than a mile from the facility, had just stepped from his back door with his dogs when he "saw a huge cloud of black smoke," he told The (Conroe) Courier newspaper (<http://bit.ly/1Jia155>).

"The last explosion ... we heard about three or four, but the last one shook the house," he said.

Patterson said he received a text message requesting to turn his air conditioning off. His son, who lives about a half-mile away from the explosion, drove to Patterson's

house to seek shelter.

"Our eyes were burning. It's not too bad, but they are burning," he said.

Information from: Courier, <http://yourconroenews.com>

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News Headline: EPA Wins Bid For Stay Of Court's Ruling On Generator Air Rule Exemption |

Outlet Full Name: Inside EPA

News Text: Site License Available Economical site license packages are available to fit any size organization, from a few people at one location to...

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News Headline: EPA's Critics Might Wait Until 2017 To Advance Regulatory Reform Package |

Outlet Full Name: Inside EPA

News Text: Site License Available Economical site license packages are available to fit any size organization, from a few people at one location to...

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News Headline: EPA's blunder proves the necessity of its services |

Outlet Full Name: Keene Sentinel Online

News Text: The most reviled woman in America right now should be Gina McCarthy. She's not, because most Americans don't know who she is. And she did...

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News Headline: 5 Toxic Stocks to Stay Away From This Summer | ..

Outlet Full Name: Litchfield County Times - Online, The

News Text: ...And if you're only thinking about which stocks you should own in this environment, you're missing a big piece of the puzzle this summer....

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News Headline: EPA is seeking Public Comment on Phosphorus Limits for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain. <http://t.co/6adwsGgsR5> |

Outlet Full Name: Twitter

News Text: EPA is seeking Public Comment on Phosphorus Limits for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain. <http://t.co/6adwsGgsR5>

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